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6. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the appropriate fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) accompanies this amendment. This IDS is for the purpose of entering the publications authored by Fleury et al., Caselot et al. and Wenda into the record of the application. Appropriate consideration of these publications is requested.

7. A Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a) with the appropriate fee accompanies this amendment. The petition is for a one-month extension of time.

It is believed that claims 9 to 18 and 40 to 43 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 43 are pending. Claims 4 to 6 and 19 to 39 are canceled. Claims 9 to 18 are allowed and claims 40 to 43 are new.

1. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This claim has been canceled. Therefore, this rejection now stands moot.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Crespi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,955,218). These claims have been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 102(a) as obvious over Crespi et al. Claim 6 has been canceled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

4. The Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 9 to 18.

5. New independent claim 40 essentially includes the subject matter of canceled claims 1, 3 and 5. New independent claim 42 essentially includes the subject matter of canceled claims 1, 3 and 16. Dependent claims 3 and 5 are indicated by the Examiner to be allowable.